Drugs addiction among youth

1866. SHRI VIJAYJ. DARDA:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the youth become addicted to drugs in 18 to 20 years of age;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted in this regard to find out the number of youth of this age group who are addicted to drugs;

(c) whether this menace has equal impact in cities, towns and villages; and

(d) whether it is affected by the economic standards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) The Government of India in collaboration with the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime has conducted a National Survey on Extent, Pattern and Trends of Drug Abuse which indicates that the prevalence of drug use in sample size of 21,803 within the age group of 12-30 years was as follows:

Cannabis	361
Opiates	101

(c) As per the Survey, prevalence of drug abuse is uneven in the country and though its impact is largely seen in the urban areas, it has proliferated to the suburbs and rural areas.

(d) There is no evidence to suggest that it is affected by the economic standards.

Scholarship to SC/ST students of Kerala

1867. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned by Government towards the scholarship admissible to the SC/ST students of Kerala during the current year;

(b) whether the State Government has spent the entire amount and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have enquired into the reasons as to why the amount of SC/ST students lapsed by the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The details of Central assistance released to the Government of Kerala during the current financial year 2004-05 under the Scholarship Schemes for SC/ST students is as under:

Name of the Scheme	Amount released (Rs. in lakh)
Post-Matric Scholarship to Students belonging to Scheduled Castes	800.97
Post-Matric Scholarship to Students belonging to Scheduled Tribes	Nil
Pre-Matric Scholarship to the children of those engaged in unclean occupation (which includes mostly scheduled castes)	The anticipated expenditure on the scheme during the current year is less than the committed liability of the State Government, hence no amount of assistance from Central Government is admissible.

(b) Central assistance under the above schemes are released on the basis of the expenditure anticipated by the state for the current financial year. The actual expenditure for 2004-05 will be reported during the next financial year *i.e.* 2005-06.

(c) Does not arise.